

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00309 252050Z

66

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 /094 W

----- 041435

P R 251956Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8482

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 0309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD BB

SUBJ: TRADE ACT - CARICOM CONSULTATIONS

REF: GEORGETOWN 0259

1. CARICOM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING HERE FEBRUARY 24 BRIEFLY DISCUSSED U.S. TRADE ACT AND DECIDED THAT CARICOM MEMBERS WOULD NOT CLOSE DOOR ON U.S. OFFER TO DESIGNATE GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AS BENEFICIARY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (BDC). MEETING, WHICH DEALT ALMOST ENTIRELY WITH TRADE PACT BETWEEN UK/EEC AND ACP COUNTRIES, INCLUDED CARICOM MDC'S AND FEW REPRESENTATIVES OF LDC'S AND DEVOTED ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES AT ITS CONCLUSION TO BRIEF DISCUSSION OF TRADE ACT AND PROBLEMS AFFECTING CARICOM. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE HAD NO OFFICIAL WORD ON MEETING, WE UNDERSTAND THAT CARICOM MINISTERS DECLARED THEMSELVES SYMPATHETIC TO PROBLEMS CREATED BY CERTAIN SECTIONS OF ACT FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN LATIN AMERICA, BUT THAT CARICOM MEMBERS SHOULD NOT MAKE ANY DECISION TO EXCLUDE SELVES FROM OFFER OF BDC DESIGNATION UNDER ACT. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND (BUT HAVE NO CONFIRMATION) THAT MINISTERS DECIDED THAT CARICOM SHOULD APPROACH USG AS UNIT AND

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 00309 252050Z

SEEK SINGLE UNIT DESIGNATION FOR REGIONAL GROUPING. CARICOM

SECRETARIAT IN GEORGETOWN WILL HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH US EMBASSY THERE.

2. SENIOR BARBADOS PARTICIPANT REPORTS THAT BARBADOS AND CARICOM COUNTRIES WERE "KEENLY AWARE" OF LATIN AMERICAN PROBLEMS WITH TRADE ACT BUT THAT NEITHER BARBADOS NOR OTHER CARICOM COUNTRIES COULD AFFORD TO HARM THEIR OWN ECONOMIC INTERESTS. BY SAME TOKEN, HE ADDED, CARICOM MEMBERS FELT THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE AND DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR THEM TO OPENLY OPPOSE LATIN AMERICAN NEIGHBORS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PRESSURE US ON ACT. HENCE CARICOM MEMBERS WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO TAKE PUBLIC STAND AT ODDS WITH SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS, AT LEAST AT THIS TIME.

3. PRESS COVERAGE OF MEETING LEFT A GREAT DEAL TO BE DESIRED. FRONT PAGE STORY 2/25 DECLARED "CARICOM COUNTRIES MAY OPPOSE US TRADE LAW" AND FOCUSSED ON CARICOM OPPOSITION TO "DISCRIMINATORY" FEATURES OF ACT. MEETING CHAIRMAN BRANFORD TAITT, GOB TRADE MINISTER, COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT REPORTERS SHOWED LITTLE OR NO INTEREST IN SUBSTANTIVE TRADE PROBLEMS BUT CONCENTRATED QUESTIONS SOLELY ON SENSATIONAL SITUATION CREATED BY LA RESISTANCE TO GSP ELIGIBILITY RESTRICTIONS.

BRITTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE LAW, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, GSP LIST, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRIDGE00309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750066-0535
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750216/aaaaaobp.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GEORGETOWN 0259
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE ACT - CARICOM CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: ETRD, BB, US, XL, CARICOM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006